

©CIL 16832 e ✓

"What's A Wife Worth?"

Written and Directed

by

William Christy Cabanne ✓

AUG - 2 1921 ✓

Copyright 1921

by

Robertson-Cole Company ✓

Bruce Morrison, son of James Morrison retired millionaire, had quarreled with his father and decided to make his own way in the world. His first business venture was in a small town where he met Rose Kendall, who had been carefully and prayerfully reared by her maiden aunt. In the course of time Bruce came to love Rose and the maiden aunt, convinced of his sincerity and character, encouraged his advances. Eventually Rose and Bruce were married.

On the day following the wedding, Henry Burton, attorney for Bruce's father, arrived on the scene to inform Bruce that his father was ill, had forgotten and forgiven, and wished him to return home. Bruce, highly elated at this turn of affairs, introduced Rose to Burton and informed him that he would go to his father immediately and bring his wife with him.

Bruce and Rose arrived at the Morrison mansion where Burton, who had preceded them, told Bruce that he believed it would be better if he would defer telling his father of the marriage because of the grave condition of the latter. Bruce conferred with Rose and it was agreed that she remain in seclusion in the Morrison home for several days before Bruce broke the news.

Bruce greeted his father and the old man, beaming upon his boy, declared that his days were numbered out that he had planned a bright future for Bruce. The future, he said, included a wife whom he had chosen. Bruce was nonplussed but determined to play the game for a few days until his father's health improved. Rose acquiesced.

On the day following, Bruce was introduced to Jane Penfield. Privately his father informed him that this was the

girl he wished to marry. With Jane were her mother, who was socially and financially ambitious for her daughter and Jane's brother Murrey Penfield. Murrey was a ne'er-do-well who preferred social climbing to work.

The senior Morrison gave a dinner for the Penfields and Bruce. At the dinner it was tentatively arranged that the marriage of Bruce and Jane would be solemnized shortly. In the meantime Rose remained in seclusion but was rapidly becoming discontented under the strain. One evening, when Murrey Penfield was in the house talking with Bruce, Rose ventured into the drawing room and ran into them. Bruce introduced her as his wife. Rose returned to her quarters and Bruce asked Penfield to remain silent about the matter for a short while. Penfield, running true to form, asked Bruce to loan him a few thousand dollars to help him out of a financial scrape. Bruce consented.

Later, after the Penfields and Bruce had gone to the opera and returned to the Morrison home, Murrey Penfield remained behind while Bruce escorted his mother and sister home. Rose, again venturing forth, encountered Penfield. Penfield explained the situation to her and poisoned her mind against Bruce. She determined to leave immediately and Bruce arrived home to find her gone.

Rose returned to her aunt and hid while Bruce searched for her. Penfield talked with Bruce and succeeded in making him believe that Rose would not have left him had she truly loved him. Subsequently a divorce was arranged, Rose refusing to accept any financial aid from Bruce. Bruce and Jane Penfield were married.

At about the time Rose was to become a mother, her aunt died and the young girl was left absolutely alone in the world. A son arrived and Rose found it a hard struggle to care for her baby and exist. Bruce's new wife soon demonstrated that she cared more for pleasure and society than she did for home life. When she discovered that she was to become a mother she rebelled but was forced to go through with the issue. Her baby died at birth.

It so happened that Rose, driven to the lowest depths of poverty, found it necessary to have some responsible person care for her baby boy. She determined to seek this person and arrived at the Morrison country home about the time the second Mrs. Morrison's baby died. Dr. Durant, the Morrison family physician, did not know Rose nor did she know to whose home she had come. Dr. Durant decided that it might be well to substitute Rose's baby for the dead child of Jane Penfield Morrison, and did so after assuring Rose that her son would be well taken care of.

Time passed and Mrs. Morrison regained her health but showed no affection for her child. Bridge parties had a greater appeal for her. Bruce was distracted. Rose, longing for a look at her baby, returned to the Morrison country home and the kindly butler, after cautioning her to make the visit a hurried one, permitted her to enter. To the nursery she went and was fondling her boy when Bruce entered.

There was a stormy scene. Rose explained to Bruce how Murrey Penfield had lied about him. He discovered for the first time that the baby was the son of Rose and himself. Bruce rushed

-- 4 --

downstairs and confronted Murrey Penfield and Jane. After giving Murrey a choice thrashing he turned his attention to Jane and informed her he was through with her. In the meantime Rose slipped out of the house with the baby.

When he discovered Rose had gone Bruce followed and found her seated by the roadside with the baby in her arms. After establishing Rose and the baby in a neat little cottage, Bruce began legal proceedings and after having his marriage ties severed, returned to Rose and his first born.

This document is from the Library of Congress
“Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection,
1912-1977”

Collections Summary:

The Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection, Class L and Class M, consists of forms, abstracts, plot summaries, dialogue and continuity scripts, press kits, publicity and other material, submitted for the purpose of enabling descriptive cataloging for motion picture photoplays registered with the United States Copyright Office under Class L and Class M from 1912-1977.

Class L Finding Aid:

<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi020004>

Class M Finding Aid:

<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi021002>



National Audio-Visual Conservation Center
The Library of Congress